

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the chemical treatment of at least one lignocellulose material, ~~materials, in particular of at least one piece of wood, characterized in that the method comprising:~~

impregnating said material with ~~materials are subjected to impregnation by~~ a chemical agent comprising hydrocarbonaceous chains, ~~this~~

wherein said agent being chosen from comprises mixed anhydrides, except for the mixed anhydride of acetic/benzoic acid, and

said agent being suitable for is capable of providing covalent grafting of a plurality of hydrocarbonaceous chains to said materials.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said agent provides said covalent grafting and the grafting is carried out by a ~~process for the esterification of said~~ at least one lignocellulose ~~materials using material with a~~ chemical agent ~~chosen from comprising~~ organic anhydrides.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~ the treatment is carried out at a temperature between ambient temperature and 150 °C, ~~150°C and preferably between 100 and 140°C.~~

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mixed anhydride comprises a first hydrocarbonaceous chain R and a second hydrocarbonaceous chain R₁.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein R represents is represented by a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R₁ is represented
by a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, these acids being and
said carboxylic acid and fatty acid are saturated or unsaturated.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein R₁ represents is represented by a C₂ to C₄ carboxylic acid and R is represented
by a C₆ to C₂₄ fatty acid, these acids being and
said carboxylic acid and fatty acid are saturated or unsaturated.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mixed anhydride comprises is the mixed anhydride of acetic/octanoic acids.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation~~ claim 1, wherein said impregnating is carried out in the
presence of a basic catalyst.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation~~ claim 1, wherein said impregnating is carried out in the
presence of a neutral catalyst.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation~~ claim 1, wherein said impregnating is carried out in the
presence of a weak acid catalyst.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation~~ claim 1, wherein said impregnating is carried out in the
presence of a catalyst.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation of the lignocellulose materials~~ claim 1, wherein said
impregnating is carried out by a dipping process.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation of the lignocellulose materials~~ claim 1, wherein said
impregnating is carried out by a spraying process.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7,~~
~~characterized in that the impregnation of the lignocellulose materials~~ claim 1, wherein said
impregnating is carried out in an autoclave.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The process as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 14,~~
~~characterized in that it is carried out on a~~ claim 1, wherein the at least one lignocellulose
material is at least one piece of wood. ~~wood, the species of which is chosen from in particular~~
~~oak, pine, fir, curupixa or eucalyptus.~~

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~A piece based on~~ An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, ~~in particular a piece of wood,~~ obtained by the process as claimed in claim 1, wherein any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the lignocellulose said fibers are homogeneous and exhibit a smoothed appearance.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~A piece based on~~ An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, ~~in particular a piece of wood,~~ obtained by the process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the degree of absorption is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~A piece based on~~ An article comprising fibers of lignocellulose material, ~~in particular a piece of wood,~~ obtained by the process as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the degree of swelling is substantially in the region of 3.5%.

Claim 19 (New): The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein said wood is selected from the group consisting of oak, pine, fir, curupixa, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.